

ESSEX COUNTY HISPANIC ADVISORY COMMISSION
FACT SHEET

OVERVIEW

The New Jersey Legislature passed a Statute in 1984 allowing for a creation of The Hispanic Advisory Commission at a county or municipal level. A series of meetings chaired by Thomas B'Alonso: Daniel Jase, President of the OAHOC Charles Grossman, Attorney; and myself were held by the Statewide Hispanic Chamber of Commerce in early 1989, which recommended the establishment of a Hispanic Advisory Commission in Essex County. Through these efforts the Freeholder Board passed a resolution to the county code on August 14, 1991, which complies with the Statute of 1984, Section 40:160-1 - "Establishment of municipal or county commission."

GOALS

- 1) To establish a physical presence in the county by preparing an office that is fully operational and fully staffed.
- 2) To request a \$400,000 operating budget from the Freeholder Board for a full-time coordinator, a secretary, and related activities for the Commission.
- 3) Advocate for new policies that will help to empower the Hispanic community and enhance their participation in all facets of municipal/county government, whether on an educational, economic, political, and/or social level.
- 4) To work in partnership with the Freeholder Board in the development of new Hispanic leadership at the county level in order to address the ever all needs of the Hispanic community.
- 5) Act as a liaison to Hispanic (CBOs), business/private sector, and elected officials. The commission will serve as a clearinghouse for information.
- 6) Advise municipal and county governing bodies (BOCP) on matters concerning the needs of the Hispanic community.
- 7) Advise and make recommendations to municipal or county governing bodies (BOCP) as to the potential impact of local legislation on the Hispanic community.

Hispanic Advisory Commission
Update and Recommendation

- Preparation of an office to be fully operational, thereby establishing a physical presence in the county.
- Will hold public meetings at various locations in the county. Also, hold an Open House/Reception to inform the public of the commission's role.
- Will visit county agencies and local agencies to explain the role of the commission and obtain information on services offered to the Hispanic community.

Will ask for a \$100,000.00 operating budget from the freeholder board for one full time coordinator and one full time secretary and related activities for the commission.

- Recommended and helped to secure a modest increase in county funding for Hispanic organizations. Also to help to secure new funding for Hispanic Family centers.

What is needed in Essex County for 1994-95

- Development of Hispanic needs assessment.
A consultant should be hired to assist the Hispanic Commission members to address the needs and assessment of the community and report to the County Executive the findings and recommendations.
- Development of a data bank to be used in referring qualified Hispanics interested in serving on County Boards, advisory committees, and local or regional agencies.

The following is the criteria implemented in selecting the members in Camden County. I find that we may be able to use this criteria in our selection process.

A. General Criteria:

1. Hispanic;
2. Essex County resident/non-county resident;
3. Knowledge of the Hispanic community; issues affecting the community, needs of the community;
4. Good relations with the community/leadership skills;
5. Knowledge of how the City and County government systems work;
6. Knowledge of Legislative procedures and how to push an agenda;
7. Representativeness;
8. Willingness to devote the necessary time to carry on the commission duties; and
9. Public relations/marketing skills.

B. Specific Criteria:

1. Community & Economic Development/Planning;
2. Education;
3. Business/Accounting; and
4. Human Services.

During the up coming meeting we should entertain nomination from the organizations and the public to serve on the commission. I will request names.

Too, by having these public meetings, it would involve all of the Hispanic leaders and make them feel part of the "Hispanic Advisory Commission Establishment."